

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 OIC-02 OMB-01

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R 011115Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2514

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: INFORMATION - INTRODUCTORY TEXT

REF: A. GENEVA 2744; B. GENEVA 2903

1. THIS CABLE FORWARDS A NEW INFORMAL SOVIET DRAFT FOR INTRODUCTORY TEXT ON INFORMATION, AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE.

2. AFTER EXAMING THE NEW ALLIED DRAFT FOR INTRODUCTORY TEXT ON INFORMATION (REFTEL A), THE SOVIETS PROVIDED WESTERN DELS WITH A NEW TEXT OF THEIR OWN AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

THE PARTICIPATING STATES,

--CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES;

--CONSIDERING IT DESIRABLE, IN PARTICULAR, TO INCREASE INFORMATION WHICH IS USEFUL FOR AN EVER-WIDER KNOWLEDGE OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE PARTICIPATING STATES;

--EMPHASIZING IN THIS CONNECTION THE GREAT ROLE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY PLACED UPON THE PRESS, RADIO, TELEVISION,

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NEWS AGENCIES AND CINEMA AS WELL AS UPON THE JOURNALISTS

WORKING IN THESE FIELDS;

--MAKE IT THEIR AIM WITH THE GROWTH OF CONFIDENCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AMONG THE PARTICIPATING STATES, TO FACILITATE THE FREER AND WIDER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION OF ALL KINDS, TO ENCOURAGE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF JOURNALISTS OF ONE PARTICIPATING STATE IN ANOTHER PARTICIPATING STATE AND EXPRESS THE INTENTION, IN PARTICULAR TO: END TEXT

3. THE MAJOR PROBLEMS IN THE SOVIET TEXT APPEAR TO US AS FOLLOWS:

--PARA 1 MAKES NO MENTION OF "ACCESS TO INFORMATION," A CONCEPT STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN ALLIES, AND DISCARDS THE WESTERN IDEA THAT INFORMATION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO UNDERSTANDING AMONG INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS STATES. IT EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF "COOPERATION" ON INFORMATION, RATHER THAN ITS DISSEMINATION, WHICH IS RELEGATED TO A HIGHLY QUALIFIED REFERENCE IN PARA 4.

--PARA 2 COULD BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO INCREASE ONLY "USEFUL" INFORMATION.

--PARA 3 INJECTS THE IDEA OF PRESS RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH WE ARE CONCERNED COULD BE INTERPRETED BY JOURNALISTS AS A VEILED REFERENCE TO SELF-CENSORSHIP AND WHICH THE SOVIETS MIGHT POINT TO AS LIMITING LEGITIMATE JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH THE NATO CAUCUS HAS YET TO DISCUSS THE SOVIET TEXT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, SEVERAL ALLIED DELS HAVE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ON THIS POINT.

--PARA 4 RAISES A LINKAGE PROBLEM SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE HUMAN CONTACTS INTRODUCTORY TEXT (REFTEL B) BY IMPLYING THAT THE OBLIGATION TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION DEPENDS ON THE "GROWTH OF CONFIDENCE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AMONG THE PARTICIPATING STATES." IF THIS SOVIET THOUGHT REMAINS IN THE FINAL TEXT, IT SEEMS TO US PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT AN UNQUALIFIED REFERENCE TO "DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION" OR "ACCESS TO INFORMATION" CONFIDENTIAL

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APPEAR ELSEWHERE IN THE TEXT TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF FREER INFORMATION IN ITS OWN RIGHT AND NOT SIMPLY AS AN ADJUNCT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE.

4. WE ANTICIPATE EARLY INSTRUCTED DISCUSSION OF THE NEW SOVIET TEXT IN THE NATO CAUCUS AND IN THE SWISS-CHAIRLED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS FOR JOURNALISTS. WE WOULD PREFER TO SUPPORT WESTERN POSITIONS ON ALL OF THE ISSUES

NOTED ABOVE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. WE ASSUME  
ALLIES WILL WISH TO MOVE FORWARD A COMPROMISE TEXT WITHIN  
THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO BE PREPARED TO  
MOVE WITH THEM AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, KEEPING DEPART-  
MENT FULLY INFORMED AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. REQUEST  
GUIDANCE. DALE

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NNN

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